

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Conrad, Ed

Ed Conrad Klondike Photograph Collection, ca. 1898-1899

PCA 569

1 folder
1 map, 40 photograph prints (5 cyanotype)

Processed by: Sara Bornstein, Feb. 2014

ACQUISITION: This collection was purchased in October 2013 from Bill Sleight by the Friends of the Library, Archives, and Museum using the Bob DeArmond Fund. Mr. Sleight is the grandson of Mr. Conrad. The purchase included objects which were sent to the Alaska State Museum. Acc. #2014-012.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level, placed in Mylar, and all items placed into a pH-neutral folder.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ed Conrad wrote home from Fort Chenah, Alaska, October 1898, that his party and that of another group were preparing their winter headquarters. His letters mention a Fred Currier, a Mr. Brown, and "the boys of the boat Tanana Chief." He describes the perilous journey up the Tanana and Chenah rivers, the differences in the length of daylight in Alaska, and the work of providing shelter, food, and trading for supplies for themselves.

By July 9th, 1899, Conrad was at Fort Independence, Alaska. He had stayed the winter in Alaska and had no word of the outside world in over a year. He was still in good spirits and hoping to come home wealthy. He describes the daily work, the sluice boxes, and states that he is his party's blacksmith.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection contains photographs taken by Ed Conrad during his prospecting expedition to the Klondike, as well as one hand drawn map of Unalaska and Dutch Harbor, and two letters home to Conrad's wife that were published in the *The Hammond News*. In his letters home, Conrad mentions the men he travels with, having to build sluices and cabins, and trade for supplies. All this is captured in his photographs.

INVENTORY

Printed images of digital copies of *The Hammond News* which include letters to Mrs. Ed Conrad from her husband. [Find PDF of Hammond News pages here.](#)

- 1 [Hand drawn map of Dutch Harbor area on notebook paper.]

[Photos 2-24 originally housed in a small album]

- 2 [Tent in bushes beside rocky stream.]
- 3 [Men with full packs, walking sticks, and bug net hats pause for photograph.]
- 4 [Men sitting in a field eating.]
- 5 [Dog outside log cabin. From *The Hammond News*: "The dog I have here is worth a hundred dollars. One of the other man has one also so our crew has the two. They are of the Mallemute breed. We traded with the Indians a little flour, tea, beans, and sugar for them."]
- 6 [Log cabin]
- 7 [Man standing in front of stretched bear fur.]
- 8 [Conrad's boat *Potlatch* alongside boat *Tanana Chief*, connected by a woodshed.]
- 9 [Men and dogs outside flat roofed log cabin.]

- 10 [Two men hold log with hanging fish.]
- 11 [Tents in a valley.]
- 12 [Men shoveling in forefront, man-made log sluice extends behind them. From *The Hammond News*: "Our boxes are three hundred feet long, containing one thousand feet of lumber, which Mr. C. and I sawed in 6 days."]
- 13 [Bear]
- 14 [Three log cabins in a row.]
- 15 [Men on board the boat *D. Armstrong*]
- 16 [Scenery]
- 17 [Large rock structures]
- 18 [Men on a hillside.]
- 19 [Fred Currier and Ed Conrad whip-sawing lumber for cabin, floor, and bunks.]
- 20 [Log cabin with sign above door, "Weare". Winter camp was 325 miles above Weare.]
- 21 [Men seated inside a tent, reading, smoking, chatting, and cooking.]
- 22 [Men digging a trench.]
- 23 [Men felling trees.]
- 24 [Tents]
- 25 Looking up the River on the Chenah.] [Cyanotype]
- 26 [Man in rowboat in foreground, log cabins on hillside in front of forest in background.] [Cyanotype]
- 27 [Men with dogs pulling sleds.][Cyanotype]
- 28 [Ship at sea with waves.] [Cyanotype]
- 29 Bear [ship] [Cyanotype]
- 30 [Scenery: mountains]
- 31 [Moose head]
- 32 [Tents & canoes along shoreline]
- 33 [Man & dog on hillside.]
- 34 [Scenery]
- 35 [Man sitting on rocks looking away from camera.]
- 36 [Scenery]
- 37 [Scenery]
- 38 [Scenery]
- 39 [Man sitting with cooking pots near tent.]
- 40 [Scenery]
- 41 [View from water of fallen trees at shoreline.]